



U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20416

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

May 29, 2015

The Honorable Jose Serrano  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Financial Services  
and General Government  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Serrano:

In accordance with section 608 of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015, Pub. L. 113-235, Div. E, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) requests approval to establish the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (OIA).

The purpose of OIA is to support the SBA Administrator in developing outreach, communications and interaction efforts with Federal, state, Tribal, and local government entities to enhance the visibility and impact of SBA. OIA would be responsible for articulating, presenting and promoting SBA objectives and initiatives to facilitate effective utilization by intergovernmental agencies. Currently, advising the Administrator on these matters is divided among several staff and program offices as collateral duty. There is not a principal advisor to the Administrator on matters relating to intergovernmental efforts designed to enhance support for small businesses. Additionally, the Office of Native American Affairs (ONAA) will be consolidated with OIA to include tribal governments as part of the outreach entities. This reprogramming can be accomplished with existing resources.

OIA will allow SBA to:

- Represent the Administrator in collaborating across the government to enhance small businesses.
- Represent the Administrator with state and local governments whose activities relate to SBA program areas.
- Participate in White House intergovernmental meetings and coordinate responses to inquiries and request for information from the White House.

- Serve on, coordinate, or lead special interagency and or intergovernmental task forces or working groups, which provide a voice for the small business perspective.
- Serve as a troubleshooter in dealing with government officials on SBA initiatives and disaster responses.
- Participate in conferences and meetings with the National Governors Association, National League of Cities, National Conference of Mayors, National Conference of State Legislators and other groups to increase the visibility of the Agency and to a greater sense of community between these groups and the SBA.
- Inform Agency officials of the activities and concerns of Federal, state and local officials as they pertain to small business issues.

We appreciate your continued support of the small business community, and I look forward to working with you to create a more efficient and effective SBA. If you have questions regarding this matter, please contact Thaddeus Inge, Associate Administrator for Congressional and Legislative Affairs, at (202) 205-6634. We are also happy to provide you with a detailed briefing on this organizational change. A similar letter is being sent to Chairman Boozman, Chairman Crenshaw, and Senator Coons.

With warmest regards,

Maria Contreras-Sweet